



**Melbourne**  
C h u r c h o f C h r i s t  
*Where You Are Part of God's Family*  
**December 25, 2011**

**Heaven's Take on Jesus' Birth**  
**Revelation 12:1-17**

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. <sup>3</sup> Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. <sup>4</sup> His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. <sup>5</sup> She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. <sup>6</sup> The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

<sup>7</sup> And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. <sup>8</sup> But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. <sup>9</sup> The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

<sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

<sup>11</sup> They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

<sup>13</sup> When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. <sup>14</sup> The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. <sup>15</sup> Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. <sup>16</sup> But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup> Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

—Steve Puckett



*As Christians around the world rejoice in Christ's birth, we welcome you to worship. God revealed his great love for us by sending Jesus to earth to save us.*



### Melbourne Church Family Calendar/Area Events

(See the bulletin board, bulletin insert, or call the church office for more information)

- 12/25 No Service at Life Care of Melbourne on 12/25
- 12/25 No Sun. night service at the church building on 12/25
- 12/26-30 Happy Holidays! Church office will be closed this week, and will reopen on Jan. 2
- 12/27 Food pantry will be closed on 12/27 and will reopen on 1/3
- 12/27 No ladies Bible class on 12/27
- 12/28 No Wed. night service on 12/28
- 1/1 Services as normal on 1/1, including Sun. evening service at 6 p.m.
- 1/1 Worship at Indian River, 2 p.m. - Walter Pierce and Melbourne Singers
- 1/3 Ladies Bible class/lunch out, 10:30 a.m. in the church office
- 1/3 Men's 1st Tuesday prayer meeting, 7 p.m. in the church office
- 1/8 TORCH fundraiser pancake breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- 1/8 Worship at Consulate, 2 p.m. - Stephen Fennell and Melbourne Singers
- 1/15 Blood drive in our parking lot, 8:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- 1/28 Ladies Day 2012, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sebring Parkway C of C "How Shall I Be Remembered"
- 1/29 Worship at Consulate, 2 p.m. - Julio Roman



## Ramblings From the Tilted Halo Society

### Celebrate, We Have a Savior!

*He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one whom men hide their faces, he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows. Isaiah 53:2-4 (NIV 1984)*

Since the beginning of time, men and women have cried out for a savior. God has heard our cry and has always had a plan to send one. Maybe not the one we expected but one who has far exceeded our expectations. God has sent an eternal savior. That savior was rejected by many.

Here it is another Christmas; the Bible asks for no celebration of Jesus' birth, Jesus asked for no party. We have taken it upon ourselves to celebrate Jesus' birthday. It is one of those days that many who don't think about Jesus on a daily basis, do. Many, who don't attend worship services, do. Families get together to exchange gifts, share in fellowship and love for one another and share some extra CHRISTmas love. People just seem to have more love in their hearts this time of year. After all, isn't that what Jesus was all about?

Jesus, who came from heaven, was born of Mary and sent by the Father, would save an entire planet for those who believe. Jesus suffered all the infirmities of normal man but was truly God himself, in the shape of man. Jesus, who was sinless, came to be the savior. Jesus is the plan God had in mind. Jesus, the savior who would save us from sin and save us from ourselves. Jesus has given us a reason to celebrate, and celebrate we do. Jesus who gave his very

life, who paid our sin debt was born; we don't know the exact hour or day, so we decided December 25 was as good a day as any.

Yes, Jesus was born for us but he also died for us. This is what makes him our savior. He took our sin to the cross and ultimately to the grave and he left it there. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day to fulfill prophecy, save us, and answer our cry for a savior. Jesus was born a baby and was reborn as a savior. Celebrate, he was born. Celebrate, he was born again. Celebrate, he is coming back for us.

As we anticipate Christmas, the day we chose to celebrate Jesus' birth, remember Jesus is not done. He is preparing our place in heaven. He will be back. We don't know the day or time but he is coming. Prepare, Anticipate, Believe, and Celebrate Jesus, not just his birth, but his death, resurrection, rebirth and his imminent return. Celebrate, we have a Savior! Merry CHRISTmas.

God Bless  
Ken Jones  
THS <><

*Counseling is available, free of charge, for any of our members, your families, and any referrals you may want to make.  
Call Ken Jones to schedule an appointment - church office, 723.8233 or cell, 501.2014.*

# Family News and Notes



## Shepherd's Corner

### Christmas

A little boy and girl were singing their favorite Christmas carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded "Silent Night" with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans." "No," his sister corrected, "not beans, peas."

Some businessmen are saying that this could be the greatest Christmas ever. I thought the first one was. (Hal Roach).

### You're Welcome

In a Dennis the Menace cartoon, Dennis and Joey are looking into a department store window that has been decorated for Christmas. Dennis says, "Last month was our giving thanks holiday and Christmas is God's way of saying 'You're welcome.'"

### Unto Us a Child Is Born

The minister in a small town was ordering a sign for their outdoor manger scene. The company needed to know the dimensions and verbiage of the sign, but the minister wasn't sure. Since time was of the essence, the company suggested that the minister send the information to them by way of messenger as soon as he could. The next day a Western Union employee was shocked to see this message come across the wire: "For Unto Us a Child Is Born. 8 Feet Long, 3 Feet Wide."

Have a Merry Christmas  
and a great New Year!

*Tom Fennell*

### Family Photo .....

An 8-year-old girl was showing her 4-year-old sister some pictures from her Bible. The younger sister was fascinated by a picture of Mary and baby Jesus. After examining it intently, she asked, "But where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a moment and replied, "He's taking the picture."

## Children's Ministry Announcements

12/25 Christmas Praise Service 10:00 AM  
No Bible Classes. Everyone will be in auditorium.  
Nursery will be available. No preschool or elementary children's worship.

12/28 Wednesday - No classes or service this week.  
See you next year!

12/18/2011

CW Contribution \$63  
(All CW contributions go to Called & Compelled Honduras Missions)

### Attendance:

Sunday School (Cradle roll-5th grade)	40
Preschool Children's Worship	10
Elementary Children's Worship	27
Nursery	9

### Pre-School Worship & Nursery Assignments

Dec. 25, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Mary Tomlinson/Keirsten Hoffman/Laurel

Nursery: Angie Brown/

Jan. 1, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Holly Carothers/Holli Zander/Benjamin Heuser

Nursery:

### Food Pantry

*Food Pantry will be closed on 12/27*



*This past week, 109 visitors (336 total in families) were provided with food through our food pantry!*

Thank you for your continued donations of non-perishable items to be shared through our food pantry! **Money donations are also welcome and appreciated.** (there is a basket and a collection box near the pillar on south side of foyer for your donations) Thank you to our dedicated staff of volunteers, and to all who continue to support our pantry in any way!

*The Melbourne Church of Christ Food Pantry is open to the community on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and is a non-discriminatory facility of The Emergency Food Assistance Program.*

Melbourne Church of Christ  
 810 Hollywood Blvd.  
 West Melbourne, FL 32904  
 (321) 723-8233  
 www.melbournechurchofchrist.org  
 office@melbournechurchofchrist.org

**Schedule of Services**

**Sunday**

Bible Classes All Ages 9:30 a.m.

AM Worship 10:30 a.m.

\*\* PM Worship 6:00 p.m.

\*\* (Alternative Care Group meetings various times - see list below or contact Ken Jones)

2nd Sun. TORCH Fundraiser Pancake

**Tuesday**

Ladies' Bible Class 10:30 a.m. in the church office; lunch out on 1st Tues.

Men's Prayer Meeting (1st Tues.) 7 p.m. in the church office

**Wednesday**

Pizza 5:30 p.m.; classes 6:30 p.m.

**Care Groups:**

Don Nickens (795-4223); Calvin Potts (725-4679); Gary Canup (952-0558);

Bob Eckelberry (984-3927);

Walter Pierce (327-3684);

Steve Puckett (432-9932);

**Serving as Elders:**

Gary Canup, Tom Fennell, Don Hall, Mike Lovelace, Don Nickens, Calvin Potts, and Pat Seamon

**Serving On Staff:**

Tom Fennell, Pastoral Care  
 Linda Hounschell, Financial Secretary  
 Ken Jones, Involve. Min./Counseling  
 Debby Nickens, Children's Minister  
 Walter Pierce, Youth Minister  
 Steve Puckett, Senior Minister  
 Cheri Tate, Secretary

**Family Record 12/18/11**

**Attendance**

6th Grade-Adult Bible Classes:  
 Children's Bible Classes: 40  
**Total Bible Classes:**  
 Auditorium Worship 231  
 Children's Worship/Nursery: 46  
**Total Worship Count:**

**Budget Items**

Weekly Budget 7/1/11-6/30/12 \$ 9,784  
 Contribution to Budget: \$10,116  
 Contribution to Special Items: \$ 1,763  
 YTD Over/Short: (\$11,748)

**Christmas Praise Service  
 Celebration of Jesus' Coming  
 December 25, 2011**

Joy to the World	1018
Welcome	Don Nickens
Luke 1:26-38	
Breath of Heaven	363
Matthew 1:18-25	
Luke 2:1-7	
Away in a Manger	1017
What Child Is This?	998
Prayer	Don Hall
Silent Night! Holy Night!	1003
Luke 2:8-12	
It Came upon the Midnight Clear	995
Luke 2:13-15	
Angels We Have Heard on High	1002
Revelation 5:11-14	
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	1001
Luke 2:16-18	
Luke 2:19-20	
Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?	382
Communion	Calvin Potts
Offering	Calvin Potts
O Little Town of Bethlehem (during offering)	996
Seeking the Lost	624
Announcements	Calvin Potts
Closing Prayer	Calvin Potts

- + A/V Tech: Ray Green
- + No Service at Life Care of Melbourne Today

**Worship Coordinators**

Ken Jones/Mel Green/Cletis Diehl

**Servers:** Alex Heuser (RS)  
 (Dec.) Manny Thomas (RM)  
 Chip Carothers (C)  
 Eulice Curington (LM)  
 Alex Zima (LS)

**Ushers:** Dale Knowles (RS)  
 (Dec.) Jorge Lara (RM)  
 Cletis Diehl (C)  
 Ken Jones (LM)  
 Glen Wirsch (LS)

**Serving Next Sunday, Jan. 1**

Song Leader: Walter Pierce  
 Announcements: Pat Seamon  
 Presiding: Harry Gayle  
 Reading: Cletis Diehl  
 Message: Steve Puckett  
 Closing Prayer: Norris Bottomlee  
 A/V Tech: Christa Pierce

Shepherd's Prayer (Jan.): Tom Fennell

- + Service at Life Care of Melb., 2 p.m.: David Bradley
- + Service at Indian River, 2 p.m.: Walter Pierce & Melbourne Singers